Discount of International Routes

1810. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether various airlines operating on international routes ex-India are allowed to offer discounted fares;

(b) if so, whether the fares are being discounted on competitive basis, or there are any commercial norms to regulate such fares;

(c) the position of Air India in this regard;

(d) whether there are any special discounts in fares on international routes for students, senior citizens going abroad to meet relations and for those going abroad for medical treatment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) International Airlines operating ex-India are required to follow the fares agreed in the IATA forum and approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation. Special fares can, however, be introduced with the approval of the DGCA.

(b) The fares are fixed on the basis of commercial norms.

(c) Air India charges IATA or DGCA approved special fares on its international routes ex-India.

(d) and (e). Student concessions are available from India to all points in Europe, Africa, Middle East, Asia South West Pacific, Mid Atlantic and South Atlantic points except USA and Canada. There are no concessions available to senior citizens going abroad to meet relations and for those going abroad for medical treatment.

[Translation]

DAVP Advertisements

1811 SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for giving and sanctioning Directorate of Audio-Visual Publicity (DAVP) and other Government advertisements to big, medium and small daily, weekly, fortnightly, monthly newspapers/ magazines;

(b) whether the Government propose to review the policy for DAVP and other Government advertisements; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Government advertisements are issued to only those newspapers/periodicals which are empanelled with DAVP. Advertisements are released in various categories of periodicals keeping in view the publicity requirement, target readership, area intended to be covered and budgetary provisions. Classified advertisements are usually issued to daily newspapers as these are time bound and response-oriented. Weeklies and other periodicals and journals are normally used for mass informative/educative campaigns on various themes.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The present policy is considered adequate.

[English]

Labour Market Reforms

1812 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the recommendations made by UNDP for labour market reforms;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which the above reforms are proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No recommendation has been made by UNDP for labour market reforms to this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Private Airlines

1813 SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the private airline Modiluft and N.E.P.C. has discontinued its flight between Calcutta and Silchar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to reintroduce the flight or introduce any other private airline in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) One aircraft of Modiluft was returned to the lessor on the expiry of the lease. Consequently from 26th May 1996 Modiluft have withdrawn its services in the North East including sector Calcutta-Silchar. NEPC Airlines does not operate between Calcutta and Silchar.

(c) Modiluft have been advised to recommence their services in the North East.